

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICFTU, UK, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN LEADER DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT
TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE

1. WILLIAM MAHONEY, CANADIAN DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED
STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA, STOPPED OVER IN LONDON ENROUTE
TO A SPECIAL ICFTU MEETING THIS WEEK IN BRUSSELS, WHERE
HE WILL REPRESENT THE CANADIAN CONGRESS OF LABOR.

2. MAHONEY SAID THAT THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO DISCUSS
THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE EUROPEAN
TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. HE AND OTHER CANADIAN TRADE
UNIONISTS ARE VERY DISTURBED ABOUT THE ETUC'S POTENTIAL
OPENING TO COMMUNIST TRADE UNION CENTERS, WHICH HE SAID
REFLECTS THE FAILURE OF THE EUROPEANS TO "REMEMBER
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNION HISTORY,"
I.E., THE EFFORTS OF COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONS TO CONTROL
AND MANIPULATE WORKERS FOR POLITICAL ENDS.

3. MOREOVER, HE ADDED, THE DEVELOPMENT PRESAGES THE
FURTHER DECLINE OF THE ICFTU AND RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT
THE CANADIANS' FUTURE ROLE IN THE ORGANIZATION. HE
REGRETTED THE FACT THAT THE AFL-CIO IS NO LONGER IN THE
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ICFTU, SINCE THIS WOULD HAVE HELPED TO BLUNT THESE UN-

FAVORABLE TRENDS. (WHILE HE IS IN LONDON, HE WILL BE
RAISING WITH LEN MURRAY, TUC GENERAL SECRETARY, SOME OF
THESE CANADIAN ANXIETIES.)

ANNENBERG

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